

Remarks

Applicant presented claims 1-33 in the present application. The examiner allowed claims 1-13 and 31-33, objected to claims 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 29, and rejected claims 14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 26, 27, 28 and 30. By this amendment claims 14, 20, 22, 23, 26, 28 were amended, and claims 16, 21, 29 were canceled. Thus, claims 1-15, 17-20, 22-28, and 30-33 remain in the present application.

Applicant appreciates the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-13 and 31-33.

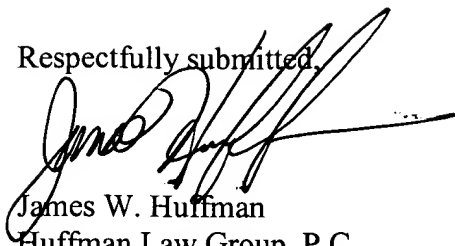
Applicant also appreciates the examiner's indication that claims 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Rather than rewriting these dependent claims in independent claim form, applicant has included the limitations of objected to claims 16, 21, and 29 into independent claims 14, 20 and 28, respectively, and canceled dependent claims 16, 21 and 29.

With respect to claim 26, applicant has included a limitation similar to that found in the other allowed (or objected to) claims, and believes that for similar reasons, it is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant has reviewed the art cited by the examiner, including U.S. Patent No. 6,154,832 to Maupin, and believes that none of the pending claims are either anticipated or obviated by Maupin or any of the cited art. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw his rejections of the pending claims, and move this application forward to allowance.

Applicant earnestly requests the examiner to telephone him at the direct dial number printed below if the examiner has any questions or suggestions concerning the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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By: Wicki J. Boy